

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An appliance for water-jet surgery, comprising:

a plurality of supply cylinders, each supply cylinder including a side wall, a piston, a working fluid ~~enclosed therein~~, and an outlet, wherein the working fluid is enclosed within each supply cylinder in a leak proof manner until it is caused to be expelled, by means of the piston, through the outlet;

a pressure conduit in fluid communication with the outlet of each of the plurality of supply cylinders and into which the working fluid is expelled;

at least one actuation device to actuate the pistons; ~~and~~

a change-over device to shift the actuation from a first piston corresponding to a first of the plurality of supply cylinders to a next piston corresponding to a next of the plurality of supply cylinders such that the working fluid can be ejected into the pressure conduit from consecutively emptying supply cylinders; and

a change-over magazine that receives the plurality of supply cylinders,

wherein the change-over magazine defines chambers, each of which receives and closely surrounds the side wall of the respective one of the plurality supply cylinders.

2. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, wherein the change-over device operates such that consecutive actuation periods of each of the pistons overlap one another in order that expulsion of the fluid into the pressure conduit is uninterrupted.

3. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, wherein a sealing device is provided to provide a leak proof connection to each fluid outlet.

4. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of actuation devices.

5. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, wherein each piston comprises a back-flow barrier such that, after the piston has reached a position in which the working fluid has been expelled from its associated supply cylinder, the piston cannot be pushed back into a previous position.

6. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, wherein an irreversibly openable transport gasket is provided at the outlet of each supply cylinder.

Claims 7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The appliance according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the change-over magazine further comprises collection devices to conduct working fluid from the supply cylinders to the pressure conduit.

10. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, further comprising ventilation devices for the removal of air from conduit sections located between the outlets of the supply cylinders and the pressure conduit.

11. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 10, wherein ventilation devices are disposed in a change-over magazine.

12. (Currently amended) The appliance according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the change-over magazine is irreversibly connected to the pressure conduit to form a single-use unit.

13. (Currently amended) The appliance according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the plurality of supply cylinders are arranged in the change-over magazine around a central axis of the change-over magazine.

14. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of supply cylinders are arranged parallel to the central axis of the change-over magazine

15. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 13, wherein the change-over magazine rotates around the central axis.

16. (Currently amended) The appliance according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein each of the plurality of supply cylinders is individually replaceable.

17. (Previously presented) The appliance according to claim 1, further comprising a change-over magazine, wherein the plurality of supply cylinders is integrally formed in the change-over magazine.

18. (Currently amended) A supply device for use in an appliance for water-jet surgery, comprising:

a device outlet;

a plurality of supply chambers enclosing a working fluid, each supply chamber defined by a piston, at least one chamber outlet and at least one supply chamber wall; and

a conduit that provides fluid communication between the device outlet and the at least one chamber outlet of each of the plurality of supply chambers,

wherein each of the plurality of supply chambers comprises a seal that hermetically encloses the working fluid in the supply chamber until a high pressure is applied to the working fluid via the piston, and

wherein each of said plurality of supply chambers comprises a locking mechanism that prevents a return movement of the piston once the piston has reached a position in which the supply chamber is substantially emptied of working fluid, thus preventing a return of working fluid into the supply chamber.

Claim 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A supply cartridge for use in a supply device for water-jet surgery, comprising:

a sterile working fluid;

a supply chamber for storing the working fluid, the supply chamber being defined by a movable piston, at least one chamber outlet and at least one supply chamber wall; and

a seal that hermetically encloses the sterile working fluid in the supply chamber, said seal being configured and adapted to irreversibly open upon application of until a high pressure is applied to the sterile working fluid via the movable piston.

21. (Previously presented) The supply cartridge of claim 20, wherein the supply chamber comprises a locking mechanism that prevents a return movement of the movable piston once the movable piston has reached a position in which the supply chamber is substantially emptied of the sterile working fluid, thus preventing a return of fluid into the supply chamber.

22. (Previously presented) A supply device for water-jet surgery, comprising:

a device outlet;

a plurality of receptacles, each of the receptacles configured and adapted to receive a supply cartridge that encloses a working fluid in a supply chamber defined by a piston, at least one chamber outlet and at least one supply chamber wall; and

a conduit that provides fluid communication between the device outlet and the at least one chamber outlet of each of the supply cartridges.

23. (Currently amended) An appliance for water-jet surgery, comprising:

an opening configured and adapted to interchangeably receive a supply device having a plurality of supply chambers or a plurality of supply cartridges, each of the supply chambers / cartridges having a cylindrical side wall and a piston that closes one end of said cylindrical side wall; and

a plurality of actuation devices, each of the plurality of actuation devices actuating the piston of a respective one of the plurality of supply chambers / cartridges in a single direction,

wherein a wall of said opening matingly opposes a portion of said cylindrical side wall of each of said supply chambers / cartridges.

24. (Previously presented) The appliance of claim 23, comprising:

a control device; and

a plurality of sensors, each of the plurality of sensors being associated with a respective one of the plurality of actuation devices, each of the plurality of sensors providing a signal to the control device indicative of when the respective one of the plurality of actuation devices has reached a final position.